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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

2832/FBR

Applicant: Scott OLIVE

Serial No.: 09/462,717

Examiner: Unassigned

Filed: January 10, 2000

For: SLOT MACHINE GAME WITH
IMPROVED JACKPOT FEATURE

Group Art Unit: Unassigned

PETITION FOR ACCELERATED EXAMINATION UNDER MPEP 708.02(VIII)

Hon. Commissioner
of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

This is a Petition for Accelerated Examination under the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP 708.02). Kindly charge Deposit Account No. 50-1290 the fee of \$130 under 37 C.F.R.1.17(i) and any other fee which may be required.

As demonstrated by the Affidavit of the Attorney of Record herein, all claims herein are directed to a single invention, or, if the Office determines that all the claims presented are not obviously directed to a single invention, applicant will make an election, without traverse, as a pre-requisite to the grant of special status. Aff. ¶ 2.

As explained in the Affidavit in ¶ 3, the invention is directed to a slot machine game with improved jackpot feature which provides a random prize awarding feature to selectively provide a feature outcome on a gaming console. The console is arranged to offer the feature outcome

when a game has achieved a trigger condition and include a trigger arranged to test for a trigger condition and to initiate the feature outcome when the trigger condition occurs. The trigger condition is determined by an event having a probability related to credits bet per game on the console.

According to a second aspect, as explained in the Affidavit at ¶ 4, the invention provides a random prize awarding system associated with a network of gaming consoles. The system offers a feature outcome on a particular console when a trigger condition occurs as a result of a game being played on the respective console. The prize awarding system includes a trigger arranged to test for a trigger condition and to initiate the feature outcome on the respective console when the trigger condition occurs. The trigger condition is determined by an event having a probability related to credits bet per game on the respective console. Many other aspects of the game are disclosed in the specification.

As further explained, in the Affidavit at ¶ 5 a pre-examination search was made in various computerized databases. The search yielded the same results as in the prior international proceedings of this application. The following references were noted as being most relevant:

1. Australian Patent Abstract AN_A_ 5,3370/86 Poker Machine
2. U.K. Patent Application 2153572A Gaming Machine
3. Australian Patent Abstract AU _A_ 33868/89 Controlling Apparatus For Game Machines

As averred in the Affidavit at ¶ 6, the only real relevant reference was 53370/86 which discloses a “Cashcade” system, generically known as a “Progressive” system. In Cashcade, a counter is incremented by each play of each connected machine and when it reaches an

undisclosed randomly selected target number a jackpot equal to the total of the counter is awarded to the player of the machine that caused the final increment.

As explained in the Affidavit at ¶ 7, GB 2153572 discloses a game in which a first reel is spun to determine if the prizes in the main game will be increased prior to playing the main game. Although this specification discloses some sort of two game arrangement the second game is mandatory so there is no concept of a jackpot trigger.

As explained in the Affidavit at ¶ 8, AU 33868 appears to relate to an improvement over the “Cashcade” type of Progressive system where two accumulators are provided and one or other is displayed as a prize value for a predetermined outcome on a machine connected to the progressive system.

As explained in the Affidavit at ¶ 9, the present claims recite a random trigger mechanism that is not based on combinations in the outcome of the main game. The trigger is independent of main game output and has a probability of occurrence related to credits bet (turnover) on the respective machine. These features, as pointed out in the Affidavit, are recited in independent claims 1, 23, 43, 61, 81 90 or 103 and are not disclosed, taught or otherwise suggested by any of the cited references.

As explained in the Affidavit at ¶ 10, Claim 81 recites a progressive system in which a trigger is provided while the player is playing a main game. The trigger takes the player into a feature game and the feature game has, as a possible prize, a prize awarded from the accumulated pool of the progressive system. The trigger may be linked to main game outcomes or may be some other random trigger such as the trigger claimed in claims 1-14. The feature game is awarded as a result of the trigger and requires no wager per se. The feature game determines if feature jackpot (as opposed to a normal main game jackpot) will be awarded and if the feature

jackpot will be drawn from the progressive prize pool (either as the pool total or some sub-amount).

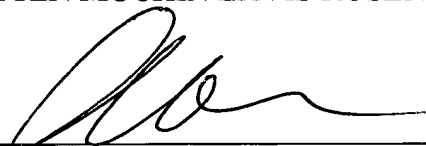
The Affidavit at paragraph 11 concludes that since the remaining claims of the pending applications are direct or indirectly dependent on independent claims 1, 23, 43, 61, 81, or 103, the pending claims are clearly allowable.

In view of the above, the claimed invention is clearly allowable over the prior art.

Further in view of the above, it is respectfully requested that this petition be granted and that the application be examined as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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